

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Youth Fishing Tournament and Awards Dinner

Dr. Widder to speak at awards dinner and Carl Hiaasen will give away and sign books for all registered anglers

Fort Pierce, FL - October 8, 2014 - An idea that started with a group of seven kids will help the Ocean Research and Conservation Association (ORCA) with vital research being done in the Indian River Lagoon. The group includes Steven Croom, Tommy Hammond, Bryce Hauser, Quinn Hiaasen, Ritter Marchant, Barrett Rhymes and Michael Villafuerte. The boys, all local high school students, created the junior fishing tournament - Lines in the Lagoon to raise funds as well as awareness about the poor health of our waterways.

The catch and release tournament will be held in Martin, St. Lucie and Indian River counties on Saturday, October 18, 2014. Kids from kindergarten through high school can fish out of a boat, kayak, and or any other water craft. They can also fish off of land at seawalls or docks, but all fishing must take place between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the lagoon.

At 4:00 p.m., prizes (including cash and a GoPro camera) will be awarded at a fun, casual family dinner. The dinner will be held at the A.E. Backus Museum in Fort Pierce. Tours of the museum, games, silent auction, raffles and lots of fun activities will take place to make it a great event for all ages regardless of whether or not someone participated in the fishing tournament.

World renowned deep sea explorer, Dr. Edie Widder from ORCA will be the featured speaker and best-selling author, Carl Hiaasen will be there giving away his newly released kids book "Skink-No-Surrender" to all registered anglers. He will also be signing books from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Hiaasen's son Quinn, is one of the boys planning the event.

Registration is \$25 and includes fishing registration, entry to the awards dinner, burrito dinner from Chipotle Mexican Grill, a Lines in the Lagoon T-Shirt, Hiaasen's book and a goody bag. For those not fishing, additional meals can be purchased for the awards banquet at a cost of \$15 for a 2 meat dinner and \$10 for a burrito box. For more information, the complete schedule and rules or to register, visit LinesintheLagoon.com.

All proceeds from the event will go to the Ocean Research & Conservation Association and the Everglades Foundation.

Sponsors include: TD Bank, Scripps Treasure Coast Newspapers/TCPALM, Sunrise Ford, Dragonfly Paddle Boards, Ankona Boats and Salt Marsh Skiffs, Compass Restoration Group, Croom Construction, Dale Sorensen Real Estate, Jimmy Buffet's Margaritaville, Legler Orthodontics, Proctor Construction, A.E. Backus Museum, All Data Solutions, Back in Form - Physical Therapy, Blue Water Editions, CBIZ - Atlantic Benefits, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Convening Culture 2015 Conference, Dave & Cindy Show, Dr. Ed Lippisch, Everglades Foundation, Frostings, Jetson Appliances, Quail Valley Charities, Inc., Stewart, Evans, Stewart & Emmons, PA, Vero Insurance, White's Tackle, Alex MacWilliam, Real Estate Inc., Bill & Lisa Becker, BrownDog Construction, Inc., Heather Hatchett-Boesch, RE/MAX Alternative Reality, Linus Cadillac-Buick-GMC, Maverick Boat Company, Michael Connor Fishing, Raymond A. Della Porta, II DMD PA, Sassy Boutique, The Lemon Tree, Trey Smith, Deep Six Watersports, EcoSunshine Tours, EmbroidMe, Florida Sportsman Magazines, Griffin and Camille Greene, Minuteman Press, More Than Apparel, Orchid Island Bike Shop, Orlando Watersports Complex, Sun Bum Sunscreen, World of Vision, Brain Freeze, Brian & Laurie Connelly, DOA Lures, Campione, Campione & Leonard, PA, Indian River Medical Center, Pelican Seafood Market, Publix, S&S Pharmacy Consultant LLC, Veranda, WalMart.

The proceeds from this event will go to help support the research ORCA is conducting in the Indian River Lagoon as well as to the Everglades Foundation. Both ORCA and the Everglades Foundation are 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organizations and all contributions made for this event are tax deductible as allowed by law.